

Serial Number: 09/954,666

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REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-27 remain pending in the present application. Claims 2-6, 10-14, and 17-21 have been amended, claims 1, 9, and 16 have been cancelled, and claims 25-27 have been added. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 9-14, and 16-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,564,051 issued to Halliwell et al. (hereafter "Halliwell"). Anticipation under §102 "requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under construction. W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). As an initial matter, Applicants note that claims 1, 9, and 16 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering this grounds of rejection moot with respect to such claims. In addition, for the reasons that follow, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 2-6, 10-14, and 17-21 be withdrawn.

In particular, claim 6 has been amended solely to appear in independent form herein. In this regard, claim 6 states:

6. A method for obtaining a service, comprising the steps of:
identifying a service needed to perform a processing
function in a processor based system coupled to a network;
searching at least one remote device on the network for
the service to perform the processing function; and
wherein the step of searching the at least one remote
device on the network for the service to perform the processing
function further comprises consulting a directory that associates the
service with the at least one remote device.

Applicants note that claims 14 and 21 have been similarly amended. With respect to claim 6, 14, and 21, the Office Action states "Halliwell further discloses: (a) consulting a list that associates the service with the at least one remote device, (col. 4, lines 55-67, col. 5, lines 1-20)." (Office Action, page 4).

Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, claims 6, 14, and 21 recite the subject matter of "consulting a directory that associates the service with at least one remote device". Applicants assert that Halliwell fails to show or suggest such a limitation. In particular, column 4, line 55 through column 5, line 20, Halliwell states:

In more detail, control logic 14 at the workstation interrogates the database 10 in order to determine which files associated with the identified application have previously been downloaded from the host to the workstation. The control logic 14 then interrogates the file

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system 8 to determine whether or not copies of the files are present and if so to examine their attributes to establish the "data creation" (i.e. the date of signed by the host when this file was held in the host as the most current file). The control logic uses this information to generate the list 32 of the current files believed to be associated with the identified application and the respective levels i.e., whether present, and if so, their date of creation.

Similarly control logic 16 at the host reads the application package file 20 to determine what the latest host files are and their associated attributes; date of creation, static, dynamic etc. The control logic compiles this information and holds it as list 38 at the host. The determination of whether files are at the most up-to-date current level is achieved by direct comparison of these two lists as will be seen in detail hereinafter. It is therefore useful to have copies of both lists at the workstation and at the host at all times.

Accordingly, at invocation of an application by a user the control logic compiles the two lists as described. Then, as the final part of the application start processing, the workstation file 32 is copied and sent to the host where it is held as list 33, and the host file 38 is copied and sent to the workstation where it is held as list 39. The situation at the end of this process is illustrated by the boxes in dotted outline in FIG. 1 where the workstation file information is held as lists 32 and 33 and workstation and file respectively at the host file information as held as lists 38 and 39 at host and workstation respectively.

As described above, Halliwell teaches the use of lists for comparison to determine whether an application or components thereof are entirely up-to-date when the application is run. In addition, Halliwell further describes two devices in a network setting that operate together to maintain up-to-date application files on one of the devices based upon up-to-date copies of such application files on the second one of the devices. In this respect, each device is known to each other and there is not multiple second devices to search to find a particular service as desired.

In contrast, as set forth in claim 6, the present application contemplates the use of a directory that associates a service with one or more remote devices. In this respect, a search for a particular service may entail querying multiple devices accessed through one or more networks. Specifically, references made to FIG. 2A of the present invention where discussion of a loop in box 223, 226, 229, and 233 show the searching of multiple devices. In order to be able to perform a search for a particular service on multiple devices, the directory associates a service with the devices so that the devices are known to the searching device and can be queried accordingly. Given that Halliwell discusses a pre-existing relationship between two known processors, there is no need to maintain a directory of multiple second

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devices so that each second device can be searched for desired services as set forth in claims 6, 14, and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 6, 14, and 21 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants note that claims 2-5, 10-13, and 17-20 have been amended so as to depend from claim 6, 14, and 21. Applicants request that the rejection of claims 2-5, 10-13, and 17-20 be withdrawn as depending from claims 6, 14, and 21, respectively.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,073,147 issued to Chan et al. Anticipation under §102 "requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under construction. W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Applicants assert that the rejection of claim 24 is improper for the reasons that follow. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection of claim 24 be withdrawn.

In particular, claim 24 states:

24. A method for obtaining a service, comprising:
identifying whether a font is stored in a font directory accessible by a processor based system, the font being included in a document to be rendered by the processor based system, the processor based system being coupled to a network;
consulting a directory that associates the font with at least one remote device coupled to a network to be searched for the font when the font is not stored in the font directory;
searching the at least one remote device on the network for the font to render the document when the font is not stored in the font directory;
automatically downloading the font from the at least one remote device if the font is found thereon;
automatically installing the font in the processor based system; and
performing the rendering operation using the font.

With respect to claim 24, the Office Action states "it is adherent in the method taught by Chan that a directory is consulted that associates the font with the at least one remote device coupled to a network to be searched for the font when the font is not stored in the font directory. See col. 3, line 67, through col. 4, lines 1-4." (Office Action, page 5).

Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, at column 3, lines 67 through column 4, line 4, Chan states:

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In operation, when a document is to be printed and/or displayed at a node on the network, the document is first examined to identify the font associated with each glyph, i.e. text character or symbol, in the document. If the data for each identified font is locally stored at the node, the document can be immediately displayed and printed. If, however, the information resources need to generate one or more of the identified fonts as not locally available, a request is transmitted from the node to the font server 20 to download the necessary data. The font server 20 determines whether it has available the data for the requested font. If so, that data is retrieved and transmitted to the requesting node, so that the document can be printed and/or displayed in its entirety.

Applicants assert that Chan discusses a relationship between a first device and a font server specifically configured to communicate with the first device. Consequently, there is no directory that associates each font with at least one remote device coupled to a network to be searched. In this respect, claim 24 thus provides for the searching of multiple network devices to obtain the font necessary to render a particular document.

Given that this element is not shown or suggested by Chan, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 24 be withdrawn.

Next, claims 7, 8, 15, 22, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Halliwell in view of Chan. Applicants note that claims 7 and 8 ultimately depend from claim 6 as amended herein, claim 15 ultimately depends from claim 14 amended herein, and claims 22 and 23 ultimately depend from claim 21 as amended herein. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the cited combination of Halliwell and Chan fails to show or suggest each of the elements of claims 7, 8, 15, 22, and 23 for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 6, 14, and 21. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 7, 8, 15, 22, and 23 be withdrawn.

Claims 25-27 have been added herein to claim additional features of the present invention. Applicants assert that the elements of claims 25-27 are neither shown nor suggested by Halliwell or Chan either individually or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable action with respect to claims 25-27.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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